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ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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September 20, 2005

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

I have received your response to our terror-related oversight questions submitted on May 19, 2005 and July 1, 2005. However, there are outstanding questions that must be answered for this Committee to thoroughly exercise its oversight role in relation to the impending PATRIOT Act reauthorization.

First, your response to our May 19, 2005 letter claims that you have no unanswered letters on file from Democratic Judiciary Committee members. According to our records, you have not responded to the following terror-related inquiries:

1. Letter to the Honorable William E. Moschella, July 7, 2005, requesting Member access to Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act applications.
2. Letter from 51 Member of Congress, to the Honorable Alberto Gonzales, May 12, 2005, renewing a previous request for appointment of a special counsel to investigate the abuse of detainees in American custody.
3. Letter from 33 Members of Congress, to the Honorable John D. Ashcroft, February 12, 2004, requesting a special counsel be appointed to investigate U.S. corporations' dealings with state sponsors of terror. We received an interim response stating your office had not yet gathered enough information to decide whether to appoint a special counsel, yet we were never informed of your reasons why one was not ultimately appointed.

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales  
September 20, 2005  
Page 2

4. Letter from Rep. John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee to the Honorable Daniel J. Bryant, September 17, 2002, regarding the sharing of FISA information with criminal units.
5. Letter from Rep. John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee to the Honorable John D. Ashcroft, November 27, 2001, requesting information on the Justice Department's program to interview Arab and Muslim Americans.

Second, your office's July 12 response also promised to respond to our questions submitted on May 19, numbered 20 to 23, regarding the application of the Geneva Conventions to detainees in the war on terror. While you said that answers to those question would "be sent to the Committee shortly," we are still awaiting those responses.

Thank you for your immediate response. Congress will undoubtedly be moving quickly to pass final legislation and your answers will be instructive. Please respond through Perry Apelbaum or Ted Kalo of my Judiciary Committee staff at 2142 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, phone: 202-225-6504, fax: 202-225-4423.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Conyers, Jr." in a cursive script.

John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner  
The Honorable William E. Moschella